

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/510,049

Examiner

Nathan K. Tyler

Applicant(s)

MASUMOTO ET AL.

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment after non-final rejection, filed 22 October 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 6-10, 12, and 19-23.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

KING Y. POON

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 6-10, 12, and 19-23 are allowed.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 6 and 19 are directed to an image reproduction device and corresponding method that designates whether or not automatic reproduction is permitted for image files. Claims 6 and 19 identify the uniquely distinct features of "generating the write address for a storage element discontinuously in accordance with a predetermined rule by a write address generating unit when developing the thumbnail image of the image file which contains the description of non-automatic reproduction in the information of an automatic reproduction file."

Claims 7 and 20 are directed to an image reproduction device and corresponding method that designates whether or not automatic reproduction is permitted for image files. Claims 7 and 20 identify the uniquely distinct features of "generating the read address for a storage element discontinuously in accordance with a predetermined rule by a read address generating unit when developing the thumbnail image of the image file which contains the description of non-automatic reproduction in the information of the automatic reproduction file."

Claims 8 and 21 are directed to an image reproduction device and corresponding method that designates whether or not automatic reproduction is permitted for image files. Claims 8 and 21 identify the uniquely distinct features of "generating the write

address for a storage element discontinuously in accordance with a predetermined rule by a write address generating unit and generating the read address for the storage element discontinuously in accordance with a predetermined rule by said read address generating unit when developing the thumbnail image of the image file which contains the description of non-automatic reproduction in the information of said automatic reproduction file."

Claims 9 and 22 are directed to an image reproduction device and corresponding method that designates whether or not automatic reproduction is permitted for image files. Claims 9 and 22 identify the uniquely distinct features of "holding first and second different dummy image data as dummy images, and that the first dummy image is read from a storage element in place of the thumbnail image for image files which are designated for non-automatic reproduction in the automatic reproduction file, and the second dummy image is read from a storage element in place of the thumbnail image for image files not stored in an automatic reproduction file."

Claims 10 and 12 depend from claim 9, and claim 23 depends from claim 22.

The closest prior art Shiraiwa (US 7057751 B1), which teaches a similar image reproduction device designating permission for automatic reproduction, either singularly or in combination with other cited references fails to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

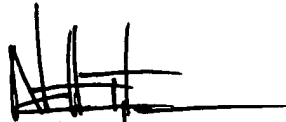
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nathan K. Tyler whose telephone number is 571-270-1584. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, King Poon can be reached on 571-272-7440. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

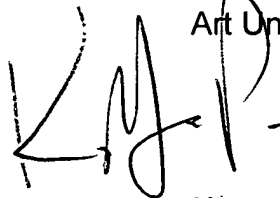
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Nathan K Tyler
Examiner
Art Unit 2625



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER